

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: To Be Assigned
Applicant(s): Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and Yasushi
WATANABE
For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING A HOLLOW RACK
SHAFT
Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned
Customer No. 24731
Docket No.: 18733/00045
Filed: Concurrently
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned
Examiner: To Be Assigned
Prior Application:
Serial No.: 09/803,560
Confirmation No.: 7306
Filed: March 9, 2001
Group Art Unit: 3726
Examiner: Marc Quemuel Jimenez

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

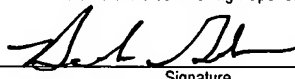
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EL 411784203 US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: MARCH 11, 2004
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the
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DERRICK GORDON

Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee



Signature

MARCH 11, 2004

Date of Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following is a preliminary amendment that is being submitted concurrently
with the filing of a Divisional Application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.